

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

January 20, 2010

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
Cholla Room
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steven Hether, Mesa, Chair

Ken Sowers, Avondale

Phil Marcotte, Buckeye

*Mike Tibbett, Carefree

A-Mike Baxley, Cave Creek

A- Alex Banachowski, Chandler

Mary Dickson, El Mirage

*Peter Johnson, Fountain Hills

*John Smith, Gila Bend

*Jo Rene DeVeau, Gila River Indian
Community

A-Ray Patten, Gilbert

Tom Paradise for Bryan Woodcox, Glendale

*Ed Kulik, Goodyear

*Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park

Tom Ewers, Maricopa County

Russ Louman for Bob Lee, Paradise Valley

*Dennis Marks, Peoria

David McCarthy for Tom Wandrie, Phoenix

A-Dean Wise, Queen Creek

*Michael Clack, Scottsdale

A-Michael Williams, Tempe

*Mario Rochin, Tolleson

John Stigsell, Youngtown

Rick DeStefano, Wickenburg

*Rus Brock, Home Builders Association

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Heidi Pahl Bickart, MAG

Craig Schurke, Westmark Enterprises

John Goss, Southwest Gas

Rob Lore, Gammage and Bumbee

*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

A-Those members participating via
audioconference

V-Those members participating via
videoconference

1. Call to Order

Steven Hether, Chair, called to order the January 20, 2010 meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee (BCC) at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Voting members Dean Wise, Michael Williams, Mike Baxley, Ray Patten, and Alex Banachowski attended via telephone conference call. All members introduced themselves.

3. November 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Ken Sowers, seconded by Rick DeStefano and unanimously recommended to approve the November 18, 2009 meeting minutes.

4. Call to the Audience

No comments were made from the audience.

5. Comments From the Committee

Ken Sowers announced that the Arizona Building Officials (AZBO) spring education institute schedule is available online at the AZBO web site and the fee is 100 dollars to attend. Rick DeStefano asked how jurisdictions are handling or anticipate handling budget cuts of state fire marshall. Steve Hether said he believes the state is cutting 9 of 17 fire marshalls. Ken Sowers said the Avondale Fire Chief said these budget cuts would not impact the city of Avondale. Tom Ewers said the State assured the County that there would be no impact to them but there may be some new private/public agreements to help spread the workload. He noted that there are no agreements in place at this time. Steve Hether said he spoke with the State and shared some of Mesa's tips for reducing workload. Tom Ewers said that Bill Mailey at the State has done some interpretations of the statutory requirements of the state fire marhsalls office and is limited their responsibilities based on those interpretations. Mr. Ewers remarked that they do not do anything residential anymore, they will only handle special requests and public schools. Russ Louman said he was informed that the state fire marshalls will not do private schools.

Steve Hether distributed travel and support information for a seminar being held in Washington DC by the National Association of State Energy Officials. He encouraged interested MAG BCC members to apply for support.

Tom Ewers asked how other jurisdictions are enforcing the energy codes. Ken Sowers said he requires a report. David McCarthy said city of Phoenix accepts either rescheck or comcheck but said comcheck is lacking in some areas. Russ Louman said Paradise Valley accepts comcheck or rescheck. Steve Hether said that Mesa will also accept both when they adopt their energy code. David McCarthy said Phoenix splits up the duty between the architectural, mechanical and electrical reviewers because they did not have staff to concentrate solely on the energy code.

6. Westmark Enterprises Wardflex Piping.

Craig Schurke discussed standard piping and their Wardflex piping product. Mr. Schurke distributed several pieces of their product to demonstrate how it works. He explained that this product has been available since 1970 in Japan. He said they are all manufactured to the same standard. Mr. Schurke distributed literature and business cards.

Tom Paradise asked if it is platinum rated. Mr. Schurke replied that it is EA4 compliant. Tom Paradise asked if it meets the 2550 flame and smoke spread. Craig said no, it is just EA4 compliant. He said pipe cannot be buried. He noted that if it goes underground it has to be in a plastic conduit and if it is outside the end of the pipe has to be sealed. He said there is no reason for a connection in the pipe because it is flexible. Craig Schurke said it is allowed to have a connection but it is not necessary. Tom Paradise asked if it is for outside direct burial. Craig replied yes it can go under a concrete slab.

Craig Schurke noted that the fitting is completely reusable. He noted that the pipe is made in various sizes and like other gas pipes it must be bonded. He noted that it is approved to 25 pounds operating pressure. Steve Hether asked if any listed bonded clamp will work. Craig Schurke replied that any bonding clamp will work. They produce some appliance stub outs.

He said installers must use their protection devices. He noted the product has been tested. He also noted that there is no more than 40psi allowed.

Craig Schurke offered his services to member agencies to certify plan reviewers or inspectors. He explained that he has done this at the city of Avondale.

Tom Paradise asked if it is certified to be used with 5psi gas pressure. Craig Schurke replied yes, so when Southwest Gas gives them permission to use 5psi they are equipped to handle it. Craig Schurke noted that plumbers like this pipe it is easy to use.

7. SAFEbuilt Building Department Services

Steve Hether noted that Jim Fox is not in attendance to provide a presentation on Building Department service they provide.

8. MAG Building Inspectors/Plans Examiners (BI/PE) Forum Update

Steve Hether stated that Dustin Schroff is not in attendance due to a family emergency.

9. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

No updates were provided. Members were encouraged to send any changes to Heidi Pahl Bickart.

10. Update Survey of Code Adoption

Steve Hether said that several months ago member agencies were planning to adopt the 2009 family of I-Codes. Mr. Hether solicited feedback on the new schedule of code adoption for MAG member agencies.

Steve Hether said budget limitations are preventing Mesa from moving to new codes. Tom Ewers remarked that the Maricopa County schedule has changed. Mr. Ewers said they are

moving to adopt the new codes in July 2010 with a grace period to October 2010. Ray Patten said Gilbert is looking at House Bill (HB) 2080 and Gilbert's adoption of the new codes may end up coinciding with expiration of the HB 2080 in July 2011. Russ Louman said they are considering the same thing as others, but are also considering adopting the 2009 energy code. Steve Hether said Mesa wants to adopt the energy code in 2010 as it is listed as one of the items in their stimulus funding. David McCarthy said that city of Phoenix does not have a firm date for adoption of the 2009 energy code or the other codes due to budget cutbacks.

Ken Sowers asked if Phoenix could email their amendments to the NEC to him. David McCarthy said he believes they are available on the Phoenix web site. David McCarthy noted that Phoenix is using the 2008 NEC. Tom Ewers asked if amendments to the 2009 I-Codes have been discussed by MAG BCC. Ken Sowers said the AZBO amendments to the I-Codes should be ready for MAG BCC review next month.

11. Topics for Future Agendas

Ken Sowers suggested the AZBO amendments as an agenda item for the next MAG BCC meeting. Steve Hether asked committee members for comments on future agenda items not based on construction activity. Ken Sowers replied that any new products on the market that are also of interest to community building officials could be future topics of discussion for the full MAG BCC.

Steve Hether asked if MAG BCC is interested in learning about SAFEbuilt. Ken Sowers said if the MAG BCC allows one vendor to give a presentation then the Chair needs to notify all vendors to give them an opportunity to make a presentation. Ken Sowers said jurisdictions have a business process which includes a request for qualifications, evaluating submissions, and choosing the best vendor to meet the jurisdiction needs. In terms of plan review the County and Mesa are locked into plan review contracts at this time. Tom Ewers said it could not hurt to learn of new companies and the services they offer. He said most cities are locked into a contract with a company but can still learn about new processes available. Tom Ewers suggested that vendors that approach the MAG BCC could be invited to attend a meeting and provide their comments under the agenda item, comments from the audience. Steve Hether said he will send an email to committee members soliciting ideas for future agenda items.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.